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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/881,382

06/14/2001

Donna Spero

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6882

7590

07/30/2002

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EXAMINER

MAI, TRI M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3727

DATE MAILED: 07/30/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/881,382

Applicant(s)

SPERO, DONNA

Examiner

Tri M. Mai

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the lined plastic in claim 11 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-2, and 4-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Medow (4685570). Medow teaches a bag having first and second panels 14b and 14c, pockets, and securing means 90.

Regarding claim 9, note the pocket book section and a pouch 58 between panel 14c and 60.

Regarding claims 13 and 14, note the closure 30 and fastening means 32 as shown in Fig.

5.

Regarding claim 11, the bag in Medow is made of plastic, i.e., it is lined with plastic. In the very least, portion 36 is considered one of the liners.

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4. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kay (6053634). Kay teaches a bag having mating closing means, and compartments on the outside and inside of the bag.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 5, 6, 7, and 15 are again rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Medow. To the degree it is argued that the bag in Medow does not teach the size. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to make the bag of the claimed dimensions, since such a modification would have involved a mere change in size and/or proportion. A change in size/proportion is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. (see In re Rose, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955), and In re Tanczyn, 44 CCPA 704, 766, 241).

7. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Medow in view of Fournier (6193034). Medow meets all claimed limitations except for the second handle. Fournier teaches that it is known in the art to provide a second handle. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a second handle 5 in Medow in view of Fournier as taught by Fournier to carry the bag securely.

8. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Medow in view of either Adams (4739809) or Chase (D157736). Medow meets all claimed limitations except for the slit in the compartment for holding wipes. Either Adams or Chase teaches that it is known in

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the art to provide a compartment having a slit. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide compartment having a slit in Medow as taught by either Adams or Chase to dispense folding wipes/tissues easily.

9. Claims 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Medow in view of Manning (3143748) or Rainey (4671393). Medow meets all claimed limitations except for the mating closing means on the two side edges. Either Manning or Rainey teaches that it is known in the art to provide mating closing means on the two side edges. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide mating closing means on the two side edges in Medow as taught by either Manning or Rainey to provide added security.

10. Claims 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kay in view of Gonzalez (5743649). Kay meets all claimed limitations except for the lined plastic for the compartments. Gonzalez teaches that it is known in the art to provide lined plastic for the compartments. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide lined plastic for the compartments in Kay as taught by Gonzalez to provide added protection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tri M. Mai whose telephone number is (703)308-1038. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lee W Young can be reached on (703)308-2572. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)305-3579 for regular communications and (703)305-3579 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-1148.

Tri M. Mai
Examiner
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July 24, 2002